

THE MUNI MEMO

OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL RAILWAY

Transportation Goes to the Ballot

Slated for the June 5th election are three transit measures that could, if any of them passes, change the face of transportation in California. The Passenger Rail and Clean Air Bond Act of 1990 (108), the Traffic Congestion Relief and Spending Limitation Act of 1990 (111) and the Rail Transportation Bond Act Initiative Statute (116) will all greet voters when they go the polls next month.

Proposition 111 would allow gasoline and diesel fuel taxes to be raised five cents a gallon on August 1st, with additional increases of one cent a gallon on January 1 for each of the next four years. In addition it would enact a 55% increase in truck weight fees. The estimated \$15.5 billion in increased revenues over the next 10 years would go toward building state highways, local streets and roads and public mass transit facilities in an effort to provide relief to growing traffic congestion.

Proposition 108, which takes effect only if Proposition 111 passes, authorizes the state to sell \$1 billion in general obligation funds for passenger rail transportation programs including such local projects as

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Overhead Lines Keep Muni Moving

Overhead Lines is another one of those behind-the-scenes Muni departments that San Franciscans probably don't consider when they think about what keeps our trolley coaches

trolley poles or pantographs on top of the vehicles. Thirty Overhead Lines employees work seven days a week, 24 hours a day to make sure that these wires are in good order to



Photo: Carmen Magana

Overhead lines crew are busy 24 hours a day making repairs to trolley and LRV wires.

and LRVs running. But without the constant inspection and maintenance of overhead lines that Ways and Structures crews provide, many of our vehicles would not be able to function.

Both our trolley coaches and LRVs are powered by the electricity which comes through the overhead lines to either the

transmit the necessary electrical power. Not only do the crews maintain existing lines, they rebuild, reset and/or replace the poles that hold up the wires. And this is no easy task when you consider that there are about 200 miles of wire to maintain and over 10,000 poles. During the week,

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Management Message



Stay the Course

As you know, Muni has entered a period of transition with the departure of Bill Stead and my appointment as acting general manager pending a search for a permanent general manager. Change is nothing new to Muni. As employees of the Municipal Railway, most of us know that the organization has a life of its own, larger than any personalities who may govern it. It is precisely for that reason that, as we move through this period, I will rely on each employee, supervisor and manager, the people who are the very core of Muni, for continued excellence in job performance.

Transportation service is vital to the City and is more than just a job. It is a civic duty that must be carried out. I am counting on each and every one of you, no matter what your area of expertise may be, to continue Muni's tradition of providing excellent transit service to the citizens of San Francisco. Exercise cooperation, leadership, sensitivity and understanding in all your endeavors and we will continue to be ranked by the California Transit League as the best transportation system in the state.

Johnny B. Stein
General Manager

Editor's Box

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your response to our query on how to improve the newsletter. Although not that many of you returned the survey, those of you who did seem to want more human interest stories about employees, a cartoon strip, more humor and an opinion column whereby employees can express their views. In the coming months we will try to include some of your suggestions.

Sincerely,

Anne Milner
Editor

Job File

2459 Forensic Laboratory Manager, Chief Medical Examiner/Coroner's Office, \$46,332 annually. Apply to Civil Service, 646 Van Ness, 558-2913 by May 25th. 2580 Medical Examiner's Investigator, Chief Medical Examiner/Coroner's Office, \$44,798 annually. Apply to Civil Service, 646 Van Ness, 558-2913 by May 25th. Advertising and Promotions Officer, Santa Clara County Transportation Agency, \$3647-4437 monthly. Apply immediately to 1555 Berger Drive, Bldg. 2, Room 105, San Jose, (408) 299-3636. 9397 Port Property Development Manager, SF Port Commission, \$56,628-68,822 annually. Apply to Port Commission Personnel, Room 3023, Ferry Bldg by May 25th. 8304 Deputy Sheriff, County Jail in SF or San Bruno. \$32,318 annually. Apply to City Hall Civil Service, 558-2935 by May 24th. For information on these and other City positions, call the Civil Service Hotline at 558-4496 or the PUC hotline at 554-1669.

Employee Notice

EAP

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) has moved to a new location at 1360 Mission Street, Fourth Floor, Suite 400. Phone 415-554-9580. The goal of the EAP is to provide confidential assistance to City/County employees whose personal and work-related problems may affect their job performance. To schedule an appointment, call between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Appointments can be scheduled for times before or after working hours. EEO

EEO

An Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) conference on managing a diverse work force for supervisors and managers will be held on Monday, June 11th from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The conference is sponsored by the Mayor's Office and Civil Service. For information, call Manti Henriquez at the PUC at 554-1614 or Anita at Civil Service at 554-4739.

Congrats!

The Divisional Operators of the Month for April were:

Cable Car: Dennis McCoy
Flynn: Jorge Huezo-Jaimes

Green: Douglas Norberg
Kirkland: Joseph Watkins
Potrero: Federico Villanueva

Presidio: Joseph Bracey Jr.
Woods: Elsworth Ogilvie

Awards



Photo: Joshua Roisten

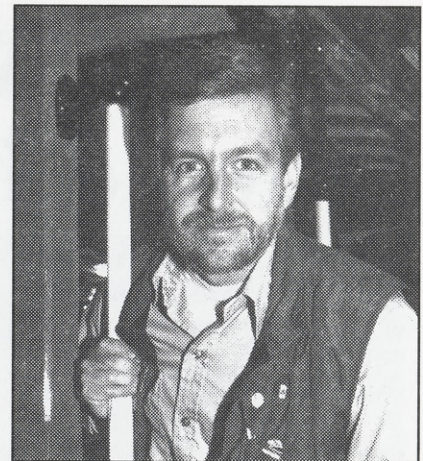


Photo: Joshua Roisten

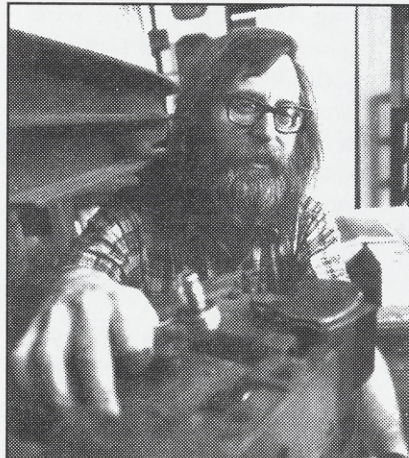


Photo: Carmen Magana



Photo: Joshua Roisten

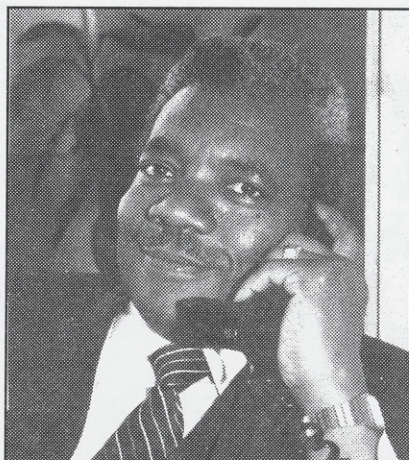


Photo: Joshua Roisten



Photo: Carmen Magana

TOP LEFT: Muni Operator of the Month Alben Chang of Cable Car. **TOP RIGHT:** Muni Operator of the Month Runner-up David Gerughty of Cable Car. **CENTER LEFT:** Equipment Maintenance Worker of the Month Richard Babow of Green Division. **CENTER RIGHT:** Outstanding Maintenance Supervisor of the Quarter Morgan Loo of Green Division. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Outstanding Engineering and Administration Worker of the Quarter, Transit Information Clerk, Curtis Jones. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Jasper Collier, Outstanding Transportation Supervisor of the Quarter.

News

Special Workshops Offered by EAP

The Employee Assistance Program is offering four series of classes on Drug Education, Substance Abuse, Freedom from Smoking and Living with HIV Issues. The Drug Education Workshop will meet for seven consecutive Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. starting June 12th and will discuss the early warning signs of chemical dependency, the effects of alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, caffeine and nicotine and how denial, enabling and co-dependency operate. The Substance Abuse Group will meet on eight consecutive Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. starting August 2nd and will provide a place where those who are in the process of

giving up their use of drugs or alcohol can explore their relationship with these substances. Freedom from Smoking will meet on Tuesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. starting June 5th for eight weeks. This clinic was designed by the American Lung Association to provide the most successful techniques available to assist people who want to stop smoking. The AIDS/HIV Group will meet for six Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. starting June 13th for people whose lives are affected by the HIV virus, at home or at work.

For information on any of these workshops, call 554-9580.

Asbestos Alert

In January 1989 Assembly Bill 3713 was signed into law and added to the California Health and Safety Code, providing for written notice to employees concerning working in a building with asbestos-containing construction materials. This applies to buildings built before 1979 where the owner knows that the building contains asbestos. This article paraphrases a special notice to Muni employees from the Health Department and gives general information on asbestos since many of the older buildings Muni inhabits may have asbestos in their building materials.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring group of fibrous minerals which have been used in pipe insulation, acoustic plaster and tile, duct and furnace insulation and other materials. In most City buildings asbestos is located in insulation on piping systems, acoustic plaster on ceilings, acoustic ceiling tile, vinyl asbestos floor tiles and structural fireproofing.

Asbestos is a concern because of the potential health risks associated with breathing asbestos fibers. Significant exposure to asbestos fibers can lead to asbestosis and certain forms of cancer although such disease is generally associated with chronic exposure to relatively high levels of asbestos by asbestos workers.

An asbestos survey was performed at Presidio and Potrero Divisions in 1989. Copies of the survey are available for review at 110 McCallister Street, Room 405. Removal of certain asbestos-



Photo: Joshua Roisten

Mayor Agnos christens a newly renovated Cable Car 16 at the Cable Car 16 Festival in April.

containing materials was recommended.

Generally when asbestos materials are in good condition, it is unlikely that fibers will be released into the air unless the asbestos materials are damaged or disturbed. Do not cut into, drill into, nail or pin anything onto, sand, move, bump, rub against or otherwise disturb any asbestos containing materials and don't touch asbestos containing material if you see that it is damaged. Report it to your supervisor.

If any construction, maintenance or remodeling is conducted in an area of the building where there is a potential for employees to come in contact with asbestos, it is required that the area be posted with a clear warning sign that reads, "Caution. Asbestos. Cancer and Lung Disease Hazard. Do Not Disturb without Proper Training and Equipment."

If you have questions about asbestos, you may call the Department of Public Health Toxic Substances Control Program at 554-2780.

News

Get Ready for the Ringers!

With June right around the corner, it's Cable Car Bell Ringing time again. This year, the preliminary competition will be held on Thursday, June 14th at 5:00 p.m. at the Cable Car Barn. The finalists will go on to compete in Union Square the following week on Thursday, June 21st at noon.

So mark your calendars. As always, the big question is whether champion Carl Payne will be dethroned. Be there and you'll be among the first to find out.



Photo: Bill Owyang

Will Carl Payne win the championship again or will Barbara Rodgers upset him?

MTC Conducting Travel Survey

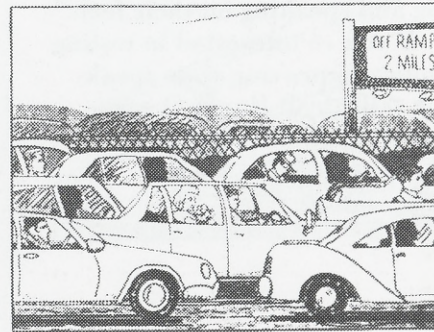
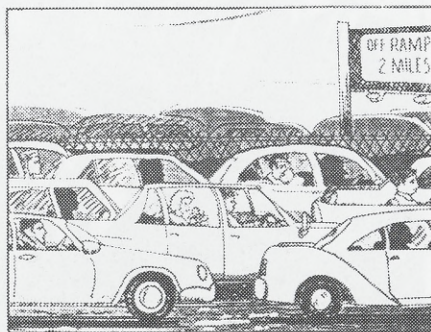
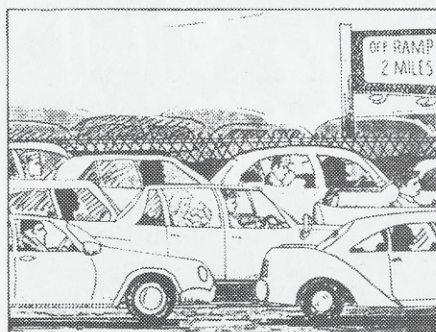
The Metropolitan Transportation Commission is conducting a survey which started in March and goes through June to determine how Bay Area households get to and from

their various destinations.

Ten thousand households will be randomly interviewed by telephone. If you are called, please take the time to answer the survey as the information

compiled will be used for the next 10 years for transportation planning.

Initial tabulations from the 1990 Bay Area Travel Survey will be released in the fall.



News

Speak Up!

For all those aspiring public speakers at Muni who may be suffering from stage fright, the Muni Toastmasters Club may be just the thing you need.

Toastmasters is an organization designed to improve public speaking and the Muni's club is currently conducting a membership drive to increase its numbers. The group meets twice a month, on the Wednesday after each pay day from 12 to 1:00 at 2640 Geary in the Safety and Training Department. During each meeting, every member is given the chance to say a few words before the group. This might be in the form of 10 basic training speeches five minutes long or in the form of Table Topics, an impromptu exercise in which members are asked to express what they think about a surprise topic. Sometimes a person might act as Toastmaster or emcee of a particular meeting.

According to Muni Safety and Training instructor Merlin Porter, who is a toastmaster himself, "You wouldn't believe what we accomplish with our enthusiastic club. People just get better and better at thinking and speaking on their feet."

If you're interested in testing and/or improving your speaking skills, call Harry Oosterbaan at 923-6287 or Bob Johnson at 759-4360 for information.

Childcare Issues Addressed

If you need childcare for work, school or training, or if you simply have questions about childcare and how to choose the appropriate provider, the Childcare Switchboard may be able to help.

The Childcare Switchboard is a program of the Children's Council of San Francisco. The Childcare Switchboard gives referrals to licensed childcare including family day care homes, preschools and childcare centers. In addition they also provide parent support information. The Childcare Switchboard and the Children's Council of San Francisco are located at 1435 Market Street on the Third Floor. Stop by or call 864-1234 from Monday-Thursday from 9 to 4:30 and on Friday from 9 to 12.

SF CITYTV Established

A municipal cable TV channel, SF CITYTV, is currently being developed at City Hall and will be able to be seen by anyone in San Francisco who has access to cable TV.

City and County departments will provide videotext and programming for the new channel. Among the kinds of things SF CITYTV will air are public information programs on City departments and services such as health issues, fire safety, crime prevention, how the city process works and how to use city services. In addition, calendars of upcoming local government events will be aired, as well as up to date changes in City services such as transit changes, water rationing, homeless shelters and after school programs. Public meetings and issue oriented programs will also be presented as well as emergency information pertaining to city services and the community, including up-to-the minute earthquake information.

SF CITYTV should be on air later this year. Over 140,000 cable subscribers will be able to tune in to the new municipal channel.



Muni's most recently graduated operator class. Congratulations and welcome aboard.

Photo: Joshua Roisen

Riders Speak

These thank you letters come from students at a Vallejo Elementary School who came to San Francisco on a field trip, chauffeured by operator Patsy Bland on a chartered bus.

Loma Vista
146 Rainer St.
Vallejo, Calif. 94589
April 2, 1990

Dear. Mrs. Bland

I Thank you for the field trip I really enjoyed and thank you taking us to the cable car Museum. and the beach and the ship museum and thank you for taking us to the ship and not paid money when we got to the ship and I really thank you for taking us to the Golden Gate bridge when we walk the Golden Gate bridge I felt like I was about there

Sincerely
Nai-Privia

Loma Vista School
146 Rainer Street
Vallejo, Ca. 94589
April 2, 1990

Dear Mrs. Bland,
Thank you for arranging the field trip to San Francisco's Cable Car Museum. It was very interesting. I really enjoyed it! It was fun I got to see how the cable car works, and I saw old ships. I also saw some old cable cars.

I enjoyed walking the Golden Gate Bridge also. Thanks again!

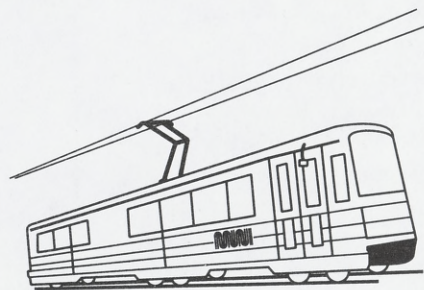
Sincerely, Victor Mapano

Overhead Lines

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crews inspect and maintain the surface wires and poles, but every Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. their efforts focus on the electrical lines in the Muni Metro subway tunnel. Naturally crews are also on call for emergency situations in which, for example, trolley poles or an LRV's pantograph damage overhead wire unexpectedly.

For both subway and surface lines, crews routinely measure the wire for size and tension to determine whether it has deteriorated. Trolley coach wire generally has a long life unless it is damaged. In fact, on 18th Street, crews are planning to replace some wire in the near future that has been there since 1947! LRV wire has a shorter life span and crews will be replacing wire installed in the subway in 1980 within the next five years.

Overhead lines is under the stewardship of Harold Conklin, General Superintendent of Power, Signals and Electronics. It is managed directly by Superintendent Vic Lamayse and General Foreman Gene Blanchat. Hats off to all Overhead Lines employees and supervisors for keeping the LRVs and trolley coaches in power!



Musings on Muni from a Minister

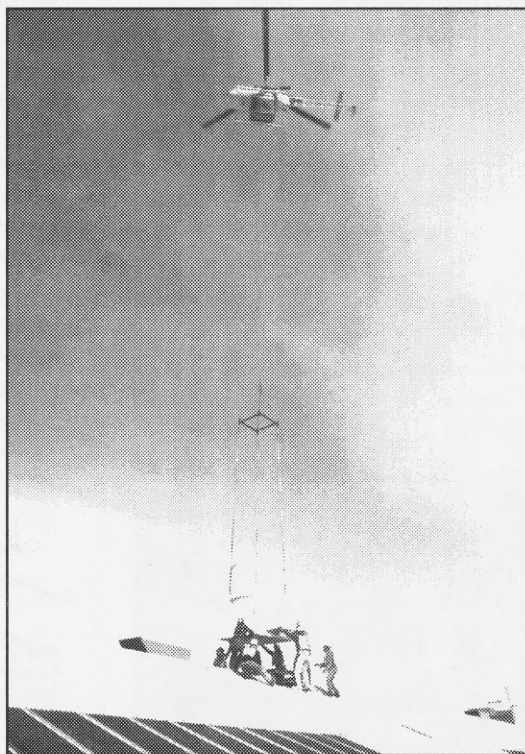
Reprinted from the Calvary Presbyterian Church Bulletin)

It was 5:00 p.m. on the corner of Front and Market. I was waiting for the No. 21 Hayes. The bus arrived, I was the first one on board. I flashed my Fast Pass and the driver said, "Good Evening." I didn't respond. I thought he was speaking to the person behind me, someone he knew or someone who regularly rode the No. 21 every day at this time. I took my seat near the front so I had a good view of all the people as they climbed the steps and paid their fare. It took me about a minute to rummage through my briefcase, find my book and get settled in so that I could tune out my No. 21 co-travelers for the next 20 minutes. Then I caught on. I put my book down and started to pay attention. I realized the driver was talking to me when I got on. He was talking to everyone as they got on. "Good evening. Good evening." I began to feel bad. I wanted to jump up, go to the front and say "I'm sorry, I thought you were talking to someone else, good evening to you, too!" But I didn't. Bus riders don't appreciate do-good preachers trying to walk the wrong way in the aisles on a 5 o'clock bus. So I stayed put and just watched. As each person climbed on board, they responded more or less as I had responded (or

had failed to respond). There were a few "hellos in return" but not many and never a smile.

By the time, we reached Hayes and Franklin, every person on the bus had been personally welcomed, we had been advised of the current time and temperature, the forecast for tomorrow's weather and the closing figures for the stock market. But no one uttered a word.

It's 20 minutes later and the bus stops at Hayes and Broderick. I walk out the back door without saying a thing, no words of appreciation to the driver or to anyone else for the little bit of new life on the No. 21 Hayes. I wonder if I'll ever have another opportunity?



No this isn't a scene from Miami Vice. These are crews installing a new ventilation fan at Flynn Division by helicopter.

Transportation

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the extensions of BART to the airport, of CalTrain from Seventh and Townsend to the Transbay Terminal and of Muni Metro along Sixth Street.

Proposition 116 would authorize the sale of \$1.9 billion in general obligation bonds to fund rail and other transit capital improvements throughout the state similar to those covered under Proposition 108 but would take effect regardless of whether Proposition 111 passes. Proposition 116 would also specify the amounts that would go to individual agencies or transit corridors while Proposition 108 would leave that decision up to the California Transportation Commission.

Educate yourself on each of these initiatives before going to the polls and decide for yourself which makes the most sense. Whether you vote yea or nay on any one of them, transportation is an increasingly important issue both locally and statewide as California's population continues to grow.

Credits

The Muni Memo is published by the Community Affairs Department of Muni. Contributions and comments may be addressed to the MUNI Memo, Room 222, 949 Presidio Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94115, telephone 923-6162.

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